

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 162532

ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-01

SIG-03 DPW-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-12 HA-05 CA-01 /108 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:MPOWENS:JY

APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE

EA/VLC:FZBROWN

EA/P:JCANNON

EA/TIMBS:RFRITTS

EA/PRCM:HTHAYER

EUR:MPARIS

P:TMILLER

EA:ROAKLEY EA/PHL:JMONJO

S/PRS:JTRATNER

-----049605 270353Z /14

O 262312Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 162532

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 0000

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

DOD/ISA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PDIP, US, VM

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE VISIT TO HONOLULU CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WILL MAKE DURING NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 27:

2. BEGIN TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT: DURING THE DECEMBER 1977 THIRD ROUND OF TALKS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, THE VIETNAMESE ACCEPTED THE U.S. INVITATION TO SEND A TEAM FROM THEIR OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR MIA'S AND THE RECOVERY OF REMAINS TO VISIT THE U.S. CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY AND JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER IN HAWAII. THIS VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE PERIOD JULY 10-14. THE PRECISE TIMING FOR THE VISIT, AS WELL AS THE NAMES OF THE VIETNAMESE EXPERTS WHO WILL TAKE PART, WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. END TEXT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 162532

3. FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE SPOKESMAN'S USE ON IF ASKED BASIS:

4. BEGIN Q'S AND A'S:

QUESTION: HOW WAS THE VISIT ARRANGED?

ANSWER: THROUGH OUR LIAISON ARRANGEMENT IN PARIS.

QUESTION: FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 1977 THIRD ROUND OF TALKS, A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT WAS ISSUED INDICATING THAT THE CIL VISIT WAS SET FOR "EARLY IN 1978." WHY HAS IT TAKEN UNTIL JULY TO ARRANGE THE VISIT?

ANSWER: DURING THE DECEMBER THIRD ROUND, THE VIETNAMESE ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO VISIT THE CIL. BOTH SIDES TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT THE VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, IN FEBRUARY THE VIETNAMESE INFORMED US THAT THEIR EXPERTS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT HAWAII DURING THE FIRST THIRD OF THIS YEAR. WE AND THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NOW AGREED THAT JULY 10-14 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR BOTH SIDES.

QUESTION: IN FEBRUARY, DID THE VIETNAMESE ASK FOR A POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS WHICH PROMPTED AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI'S DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES?

ANSWER: THE NOTIFICATION OF POSTPONEMENT CAME AFTER THE EXPULSION OF AMBASSADOR THI. I CANNOT GO INTO THE CONTENTS OF THEIR MESSAGE TO US.

QUESTION: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS? DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT DISCUSSIONS IN HAWAII WILL FOCUS ONLY ON THE MIA QUESTION OR WILL THEY INCLUDE NORMALIZATION AS WELL?

ANSWER: WE WOULD HOPE THAT VIETNAMESE WILLINGNESS TO SEND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 162532

THEIR EXPERTS TO HONOLULU IS AN INDICATION OF SRV INTENT TO PROVIDE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF OUR MISSING MEN. THE HONOLULU VISIT IS A PURELY TECHNICAL ONE, DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH MIA MATTERS, ANALOGOUS TO THE U.S. VISIT TO HANOI ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1977.

QUESTION: WILL THE HONOLULU VISIT LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS ON NORMALIZATIONS OF RELATIONS?

ANSWER: DURING THE DECEMBER ROUND OF TALKS BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT A FOURTH ROUND WOULD BE USEFUL AND WOULD BE SCHEDULED AT A CONVENIENT TIME. I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE TODAY ON WHEN A FOURTH ROUND WILL BE SCHEDULED. THE CIL VISIT IS PURELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING TECHNICAL MIA MATTERS.

QUESTION: DURING RECENT WEEKS, SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY STRAINED. DO YOU SEE THIS AS HAVING AFFECTED VIETNAMESE WILLINGNESS TO COME TO HAWAII AT THIS TIME?

ANSWER: THE VIETNAMESE VISIT TO THE CIL IS PART OF AN ONGOING COMMITMENT BY VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES TO OBTAIN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNT OF OUR MISSING MEN. AS YOU KNOW, WE REGARD THIS GOAL AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. OUR EFFORT TO PROGRESS ON THE MIA MATTER HAS ABSOLUTELY NO IMPLICATIONS FOR RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. IT WOULD BE AN ERROR TO MAKE ANY SUCH INFERENCES.

QUESTION: ARE THE VIETNAMESE GOING TO TURN OVER ANY MORE REMAINS DURING THE CIL VISIT?

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 162532

ANSWER: WE DON'T KNOW YET.
END Q'S AND A'S.

5. AS APPROPRIATE, ACTION ADDRESSES MAY DRAW ON ABOVE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN BRIEFING HOST GOVERNMENTS ON VIETNAMESE CIL VISIT. DURING BRIEFINGS, POSTS SHOULD QUIETLY STRESS THAT WE VIEW CIL VISIT AS PURELY A TECHNICAL ONE, AND THAT WE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS NORMALIZATION. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHEN A FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS ON NORMALIZATION MIGHT BE HELD.

6. FOR PEKING: INFORM DEPARTMENT ASAP OF ACTION TAKEN.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, PDIP, US, VM
To: TOKYO PEKING MULTIPLE
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Review Markings:
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